



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on the Communities and the Environment



FY 2002 Programs in New Jersey



In August 2000, the President directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to develop a plan to respond to severe wildland fires, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and assure sufficient firefighting capacity in the future. The National Fire Plan (NFP) was developed and addresses 5 key points:

- Firefighting;
- Rehabilitation and Restoration;
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction;
- Community Assistance; and,
- Accountability.

The USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior are in the second year of implementing the National Fire Plan, with allocations to New Jersey estimated at:

USDA Forest Service Allocations for FY 2002

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazard Fuel Treatment	Research R&D JFSP	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance			Total
Preparedness	Facilities					State Fire Assist	Volunteer Fire Assist	Economic Action Programs	
0	0	0		0	0	645,432	224,262	0	869,695

*Allocations for FY 2001 and 2002 may vary slightly over time due to adjustments in accounting systems.

Department of the Interior Allocations for FY 2002

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazard Fuel Treatment	Research JFSP	Community Assistance Rural Fire Assist	Total
Preparedness	Facilities					
39,000	0	0	46,000	0	0	85,000

Program Highlights

- "Firewise in the Pines" - As a result of funding provided by the National Fire Plan through the USDA Forest Service, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service initiated a community assistance and hazardous fuel reduction program. This special

project "Firewise in the Pines" has established an educational program that addresses the implementation of Firewise principles in 53 municipalities which are within or adjacent to the 1.1 million acre Pinelands National Reserve. This Project also initiated a Wildland/Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Program targeting county, municipal and nonprofit ownership lands across New Jersey with a special emphasis on communities at risk.

- Cooperative Fire Protection - Cooperative Fire Program funds, regular and National Fire Plan, contribute to improved fire protection for the citizens of New Jersey. Communities benefit by having better trained and responsive fire organizations to protect life and property.
- Economic Action Programs - In New Jersey a wood energy development project was initiated, which resulted in a wood/coal co-firing test that consumed over 2,000 tons of recycled wood pallets. The long-term goal of this project is the economical consumption of thousands of tons of wood waste per year.

Rehabilitation and Restoration

Rehabilitate fire damaged wildlands and restore ecosystem

- Rehabilitation and Restoration program consists of
 1. Immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and
 2. Long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring);
- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restoring severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Invest in projects to reduce fire risk with focused effort in wildland urban interface areas.

- Approximately 294 acres are planned for Hazardous Fuels treatment by Federal agencies, an estimated 160 will be treated in the Wildland Urban Interface.
- An estimated \$46,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

Work with communities to reduce the risks of catastrophic fire

States are focusing funding on increasing wildland fire response capacity by enhancing their level of fire preparedness, training wildland firefighters, purchasing personal protective equipment, conducting fire education and prevention activities including Firewise projects; implementing hazard mitigation projects addressing fuel reduction and installation of dry hydrants, and fire planning projects assessing communities at risk.

- 4 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding - \$645,432.

- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding - \$224,262.

Accountability

Establish and maintain a high level of accountability including oversight reviews, progress tracking and performance monitoring

- DOI and Forest Service are developing a uniform set of performance measures necessary to assess program effectiveness these measures will be tracked through a common electronic database by the end of the FY02.
- DOI and Forest Service have developed a uniform process and timeline to identify and complete planning on fuels treatment projects.
- A DOI and Forest Service contracting review has been completed and actions will be initiated to increase the level of contracts for fuels hazard reduction work.

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